



The Ground Plane

South Bay
Amateur
Radio
Association
ARRL Member Club
Since 1974



Volume 5 Edition 1

January, 2004

SBARA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Happy New Year blessing to all of you. Yes, it's the beginning of a new year for us and for SBARA too. At the January 21, 2004 meeting we plan to have elections for the 2004 Board of Directors Leadership team. Nomination from the floor will be accepted at the meeting. The 2003 Board has nominated a full slate so please come and vote for your 2004 officers.

We will be meeting once again back to the Fremont Community Center at Lake Elizabeth on January 21st so don't go to the Boathouse!

The year has started out with 30 members already renewing their membership. This has never happen before. We have Kortnee Feriante our 2003 Membership Chairperson to thank for this. She started in October 2003 and all her hard work has paid off. ***For those of you who have yet to renew, please take the time to fill out and send in the renewal form that you receive in this issue of the Ground Plane.***

The December Holiday potluck dinner was a resounding success. Twenty-five members and their spouses attended. The festivities were fun and everyone had plenty of time to socialize throughout the evening. Jane Miller and Mike Studer both past Presidents attended. Five of the members were door prize winners. Oh yes... the food was great and everyone agreed that SBARA must have a December Holiday Potluck again next year. Be sure to attend next December if you missed this one!

Al Rendon - WT6K

Meeting Time and Location

SBARA meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month and out meetings being at 7:30 PM.

We will be meeting once again back to the Fremont Community Center at Lake Elizabeth on January 21st so don't go to the Boathouse!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the January, 2004 meeting to "kick-off" the New Year.

Bill Artelt—WB9YVM

Newsletter Editor

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SBARA MEETING MINUTES

Present were Al Rendon WT6K (Programs Facilitator), Dennis Franklin K6DF, Jim Woods KE6IVA (Treasurer) and Sam Severs WS6S (Secretary)

Jim Wood opened the meeting by presenting the SBARA board with the December 2003 financial report and the projected budget for 2004. The text of these 2 documents follow these minutes.

Al Rendon WT6K made a motion to eliminate the 50-50 drawing / donation and replace it with a raffle. The motion was seconded by Sam Severs WS6S and the motion carried with 3 votes affirming and one abstention.

Jim Woods KE6IVA advised the board of a discussion with the Fremont parks department concerning our ability to meet at the community center or boat house due to layoffs in the parks department and earlier park closing hours. We are faced with the need to pay \$15.00 an hour to continue meeting to cover the presence of a ranger (a better rate than is normally quoted to non-profit's. Sam Severs WT6K offered to check out the possibility of using the Veteran's hall in Niles as a possible free alternative meeting site.

Jim Wood's KE6IVA made a motion to accept/ adopt the projected budget. Al Rendon WT6K motioned that the board accept it on a tentative basis. Dennis Franklin K6DF seconded the motion. The budget was accepted on these terms by a unanimous vote.

Membership report: \$400.00 has been received to date as a result of membership renewals due to the November Ground Plane renewal notice. No breakdown as to the number or type of memberships renewed is available at this time.

Sam Severs read the November 2003 board minutes. The board approved those minutes.

Sam Severs agreed to accept publication duties for the Ground Plane as a part of the Vice President's duties for the coming years printing, labeling, stamping & mailing. Bill Artelt WB9YVM will continue to provide newsletter copy, Kortnee Feriante KG6HDS will continue to provide mailing labels and Jim Woods KE6IVA will continue to pay the printer.

Jim Wood's noted that the Newsletter Editor, Membership Chair, Quartermaster and Web Master are all appointed positions. As the Secretary it is my understanding that Bill Artelt WB9YVM (Newsletter), Kortnee Feriante KG6HDS (Membership Chair), Tony Flushe AB6BR (Web Master) and Jim Wood's (Quartermaster) are willing to continue in their posts and will be affirmed by the newly elected board in February.

Sam Severs WS6S SBARA Secretary

SBARA Treasurers Report

SBARA Treasurer's Report

December 31, 2003

Presented By SBARA Treasurer Jim Wood's KE6IVA

This report reflects all monies received during the last month. It reflects all monies spent for the same period. Field day is now complete.

Beginning Balance 11/01/03	\$499.95
Receipts This Period	\$220.00
Dues Receipts	\$220.00
Expenses This Period	\$52.59
Printing Newsletter	\$35.73
Stamps	\$00.00
Refreshments	\$16.86
Balance 12/19/2003	\$667.36
Checkbook Balance	
CD's 12/20/2003	\$2053.76 Statement
<u>TOTAL CASH ASSETS</u>	\$2721.12 (CD's & Checking)
 <u>2003 Accounts Receivable</u>	
Dues Receipts	\$595.00
Misc. Donation	\$5.00
Zucchini Festival	\$1039.27
Total	\$1639.27
 <u>2003 Expense Accounts</u>	
Newsletter	\$406.01
Stamps	\$353.16
Refreshments	\$137.26
Field Day	\$455.21
Repeater Donation	\$205.00
Misc.	\$28.09
Insurance	\$348.00
P. O. Box Rental	\$58.00
State Of California	\$20.00
Total	\$2010.73

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SBARA Treasurers Report

SBARA BUDGET STATUS FOR 2004

Presented By SBARA Treasurer Jim Wood's KE6IVA

01/04/2004

<u>INPUT</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>TO DATE STATUS</u>
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Membership Dues:

Regular	\$400.00	
Family	\$200.00	
Senior	\$100.00	
Student	\$10.00	

Total	\$710.00	
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Donations / Events	\$800.00	
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HRO Advertising	\$120.00	
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50-50 Donation	<u>\$100.00</u>	
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Total	\$710.00	
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Expenses

Ground Plane Newsletter:

Printing & Supplies	\$400.00	
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Mailing & Postage	<u>\$370.00</u>	
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Total	\$770.00	
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Field Day	\$500.00	
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Meeting Rental	\$413.00	
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Meetings (supplies & Refreshments)	\$150.00	
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Membership (Stamps, Supplies, Labels)	\$50.00	
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Miscellaneous	\$50.00	
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P. O. Box Rental	\$60.00	
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President Expenses / Awards	\$100.00	
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Repeater Donations	\$200.00	
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State Of California	\$20.00	
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Insurance - Liability	<u>\$348.00</u>	
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Total	\$1791.00	
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YEAR END SURPLUS	(-\$61.00)	
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Current Check Book Balance	01/01/04	\$667.36
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CD Certificate Balance	12/20/03	\$2053.76
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TOTAL CASH ASSETS	01/01/04	\$2721.12
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Handheld Transceiver Antennas

With so many hams selecting HT's as rigs I thought I would share my thoughts on the topic of antennas on these radios. I have come up with some observations over the years that may make you like your HT more. And understand it's limitations better.

An HT is a great little radio. Useful in all kinds of situations. I must say that almost without exception the antenna that comes with the radio is pure junk. (It's my opinion so I can say that.) One thing nobody considers when buying an HT antenna is "how rigid is the antenna material?". Why? Because the antenna is going to get flexed back and forth a lot. If the antenna is too rigid it will transmit that force directly to the antenna connector on the HT. Which can cause all kinds of nasty problem with the radio. I have repaired broken antenna leads inside HT's. I have replaced broken antenna connectors on HT's. I have repaired circuit boards inside HT's. I have tightened dozens of loose antenna connectors. One simple cause in all cases is an antenna that moves around a lot and transmits that force directly to the connector. Here is a simple test for your HT antenna to check it's flexibility. Hold the HT vertically. Place your palm over the top of the antenna face down. Gently press straight down on the very top of the antenna. Does it flex? Well if it doesn't then that force is being transferred to the HT. I am sure you get the idea at this point. If you have an antenna that resembles a piece of pipe on your HT you can expect problems in the future.

Oh, another thing to do is remove your HT's antenna and give the connector a wiggle. Does it move? If so it may be loose. Check with others who have the same rig. Or ask the manufacturer. But in my experience it should not move. If it did not move great! Now remember to check it from time to time. You have a baseline for future reference.

Now for the real reason we get an antenna, rf. The HT antenna is a compromise between performance and size. My standard rule of antennas is this. The closer the antenna length is to a full wavelength, the better it will perform. Now that is a wild generalization. But it is scary how close to the truth it is in many cases. So look at your HT, is that antenna 2 meters long? Ah Ha! We have our suspect. But there is no way you want a big monster antenna on this radio. So we choose one that is a compromise in length and performance. I find an HT antenna of maybe 8 inches in length is about right for me. I do have a nice big quarter wave, 18 inch, antenna for some situations. But I only bring it along as a second antenna. I love the really skinny antennas. They flex like mad but work pretty darn well. You can find reviews on antennas on the internet. And you can spend hours searching there. But maybe now you have a way to narrow your search.

Now for my favorite antenna to hate, stubby ducks. I have used them in the past. They perform slightly better than a dummy load. For example, if you are on the ground. And another ham is at the top of your antenna tower above you. You will probably hear each other. Unless you live in Texas where towers are a bit higher. A flea market is going to be pushing it. Hi hi.

Remember manufacturers want you to buy more radios. So if the antenna breaks the radio in 3 years they get to make more money off you. I hope this gives you some things to think about. Keep the finals hot.

73,

Mike AB6CV

ANAHEIM, CA

(Near Disneyland)
933 N. Euclid St., 92801
(714) 533-7373
(800) 854-6046
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.
anaheim@hamradio.com

BURBANK, CA

2416 W. Victory Bl., 91506
(818) 842-1786
(800) 854-6046
Eric, KA6IHT, Mgr.
Victory Blvd. at Buena Vista
1 mi. west I-5
burbank@hamradio.com

OAKLAND, CA

2210 Livingston St., 94606
(510) 534-5757
(800) 854-6046
Mark, WI7YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SAN DIEGO, CA

5375 Kearny Villa Rd., 92123
(858) 560-4900
(800) 854-6046
Tom, KM6K, Mgr.
Hwy. 163 & Claremont Mesa
sandiego@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

510 Lawrence Exp. #102
94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Howard, KE6PWH, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

NEW CASTLE, DE

(Near Philadelphia)
1509 N. Dupont Hwy., 19720
(302) 322-7092
(800) 644-4476
Jim, KA3LLL, Mgr.
RT.13 1/4 mi., So. I-295
newcastle@hamradio.com

PORTLAND, OR

11705 S.W. Pacific Hwy.
97223
(503) 598-0555
(800) 854-6046
Leon, N7IXX, Mgr.
Tigard-99W exit
from Hwy. 5 & 217
portland@hamradio.com

DENVER, CO

8400 E. Iliff Ave. #9, 80231
(303) 745-7373
(800) 444-9476
Joe, KD0GA, Mgr.
John, N5EHP, Mgr.
denver@hamradio.com

PHOENIX, AZ

1939 W. Dunlap Ave., 85021
(602) 242-3515
(800) 444-9476
Gary, N7GJ, Mgr.
1 mi. east of I-17
phoenix@hamradio.com

ATLANTA, GA

6071 Buford Hwy., 30340
(770) 263-0700
(800) 444-7927
Mark, KJ4VO, Mgr.
Doraville, 1 mi. no. of I-285
atlanta@hamradio.com

WOODBRIIDGE, VA

(Near Washington D.C.)
14803 Build America Dr. 22191
(703) 643-1063
(800) 444-4799
Steve, N4SR, Mgr.
Exit 161, I-95, So. to US 1
woodbridge@hamradio.com

SALEM, NH

(Near Boston)
224 N. Broadway, 03079
(603) 898-3750
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Chuck, N1UC, Mgr.
sales@hamradio.com
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Mark, WI7YN, Mgr.
I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp
oakland@hamradio.com

SUNNYVALE, CA

510 Lawrence Exp. #102
94085
(408) 736-9496
(800) 854-6046
Howard, KE6PWH, Mgr.
So. from Hwy. 101
sunnyvale@hamradio.com

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- Front Panel GPS in • Rear DB-9 port
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Low Pricing!

2004 - SBARA Leadership Team**President**

Al Rendon — WT6K
w6tk@arrl.net

Vice President

Sam Severs — WS6S
ws6s@severs.com

Treasurer

Jim Wood — KE6IVA
jimke6iva@comcast.net

Secretary

Vacant

Program Facilitator

Kristen McIntyre — K6WX
kristen@alum.mit.edu

Membership Chairperson

Kortnee Ferianti — KG6HDS
dearkortnee@comcast.net

WebMaster

Tony Flusch — AB6BR
ab6br@arrl.net

Newsletter Editor

Bill Artelt — WB9YVM
hamradio@comcast.net

Photographer

Elise Ciraolo — KF6TQB
ciraolo@earthlink.net

Visit SBARA on the Internet at <http://www.qsl.net/sbara>
On the Air at 146.015/615

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<http://www.qsl.net/sbara>

South Bay Amateur Radio Association—SBARA

P.O. Box 8377

Fremont, Ca. 94537-8377